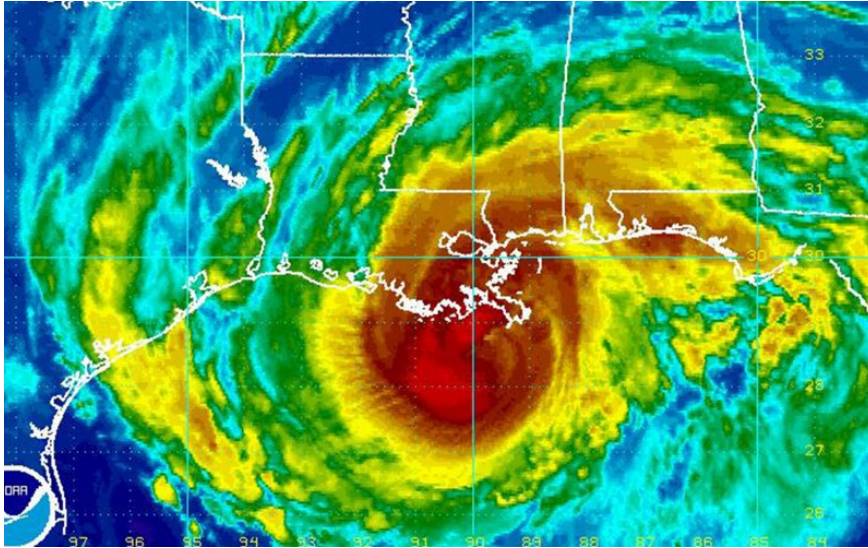


RED STORM 2 hours ago

2. Chinese Knocked Out U.S. Weather System



NOAA via Getty Images

Back in October, when the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced it was doing “unscheduled maintenance” on its network, it did not disclose that it was because the Chinese had hacked in a month earlier. While the agency has not disclosed whether the hackers accessed classified information, it did end up sealing off such data in October. According to Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), NOAA informed him that Chinese hackers were behind the attack. The agency reportedly did not notify the proper authorities when it learned of the breach. According to a spokesman, all systems were working again and forecasts were accurately delivered to the public.

Read it at *The Washington Post* >>

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How the NSA Became a Killing Machine *By Shane Harris*

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TonyHayward

The Chinese seem to hack in to US systems pretty easily.

Maybe they should go back to the old ways of storing classified s... in file cabinets.

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33 minutes ago

Everybody spies on everybody.... I just think the chinese get caught more often than the rest of the countries.

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MiddleofDaRoad

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Let's make a verbal climate deal with these guys! They're sure to comply!!

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1 hour ago

that headline can be read 2 ways

one is funnier than th other

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HERE WE GO 5 hours ago

3. Russia Invades Ukraine Again



Maxim Zmeyev

NATO's supreme allied commander confirmed The Daily Beast's report on Wednesday of Russian military tanks, artillery, and combat troops entering eastern Ukraine over the past two days. "Across the last two days we have seen the same thing that OSCE is reporting. We have seen columns of Russian equipment, primarily Russian tanks, Russian artillery, Russian air-defense systems and Russian combat troops entering into Ukraine," Gen. Philip Breedlove said. He said that they do not yet know how many.

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NO SURPRISE 2 hours ago

4. Banks Fined \$3.4B for Rigging Market

*Eric Thayer*

Five of the world's largest banks—Citibank, JPMorgan Chase, RBS, HSBC, and UBS—were fined \$3.4 billion in total by authorities in the U.K., U.S., and Switzerland for manipulating global currency markets. (Barclays is still under investigation.) Traders at the banks allegedly conspired in chat rooms for years to manipulate currency markets at the expense of clients. Each day, roughly \$5.3 trillion changes hands in the global foreign exchange market, with 40 percent of them taking place in London.

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TOUCHDOWN 15 hours ago

5. Spacecraft Lands on Speeding Comet

*ESA via Getty Images*

For the first time ever, a spacecraft has landed on a comet. The European Space Agency's Philae, the size of a washing machine, descended from the mother ship Rosetta to Comet 67P on Wednesday. Overnight, commands were sent to wake up Philae, but the robotic lander began using a backup computer rather than the main computer. The result was that not all the telemetry data was being sent to Earth. The agency solved the problem by "power-cycling" the lander. Philae has spent 10 years fixed to the side of Rosetta during the journey across the solar system. Scientists hope the probe will help them learn a lot more about the composition of comets and how they react when they get close to the sun.

Read it at The Guardian >>

XTRA INSIGHT

Comet Surfing on a Rocket *By Matthew R. Francis*
Spacecraft Orbits Comet for First Time



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SECRET DIPLOMACY 15 hours ago

6. U.S., China Strike Landmark Climate Deal

*Kim Kyung Hoon/Reuters*

Vladimir Putin may have grabbed headlines for lending China's first lady his coat, but President Obama and President Xi Jinping made news of more substance at the APEC Summit, announcing a joint plan Wednesday to curb carbon emissions. Under the deal between the world's No. 1 and 2 polluters, seen as essential to negotiating a new global climate agreement by 2015, the United States would emit 26 percent to 28 percent less carbon in 2025 than it did in 2005, and China would reach peak carbon emissions by 2030.

Read it at The Daily Beast >>

XTRA INSIGHT



U.S.-China Climate Deal Is Mostly Hype *By Tim Mak*

Obama and Xi Say We Can Breathe Easy *By Ben Leung*



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STANDING UP 6 hours ago

7. Obama: Torture Rules Apply in Gitmo

*U.S. Navy via Getty*

According to White House officials, government lawyers addressing the UN this week will reclassify the U.S. government's stance on torture under the Geneva Conventions. "In contrast to positions previously taken by the U.S. government, the delegation will affirm that U.S. obligations under Article 16, which prohibits cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, do not apply exclusively inside the territorial United States," a White House statement says. The U.S. will extend those provisions to areas in which the U.S. government operates as a governmental authority, such as at Guantanamo Bay. The U.S. will also clarify that the Geneva Conventions are not suspended during wartime. This is the first time the U.S. has come before the Committee Against Torture since President Obama was elected. It is not clear if this applies to the force-feeding those on hunger strike, which lawyers of prisoners at Gitmo say is tantamount to torture.

Read it at ABC News >>

XTRA INSIGHT**Gitmo's Kafkaesque Legal System** *By Eleanor Clift*

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8. U.S. Sailors Assaulted in Turkey

U.S. Navy sailors from the *USS Ross* were attacked in Turkey on Wednesday, and had bags placed over their heads. The incident, which was captured on video, is now under investigation. “U.S. Navy officials are working with the embassy and NCIS to investigate the incident. The three sailors were unharmed and are safely back aboard. They did not require medical attention,” a Navy spokesman said. The assailants are believed to be neo-nationalists from the Turkish Youth Union.

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XTRA INSIGHT**Why This Police State Needs ISIS** *By Jamie Dettmer*

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9. South Carolina Gay-Marriage Ban Falls

A federal judge in South Carolina ruled Wednesday that the state’s same-sex marriage ban was unconstitutional. The decision by Judge Richard Gergel is the first in a South Carolina federal court that claims the state government has no compelling interest, nor the right, to decide which people can and cannot marry. It is expected that Gov. Nikki Haley and Attorney General Alan Wilson, both Republicans, will appeal. In his decision, Gergel was overturning an amendment to the state constitution approved by 78 percent of voters in 2006. It is not clear if the ruling will go into effect immediately.

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Gay Marriage Chaos Begins *By Jay Michaelson*All The Wrong Reasons to Ban Gay Unions *By Jay Michaelson*

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NOW WE KNOW 2 hours ago

10. Pilot 'Thrown' From SpaceShipTwo

*Lucy Nicholson/Reuters*

The pilot of the Virgin Galactic SpaceShipTwo, which crashed in California last month, says he was thrown from the ship when it broke up, and his parachute automatically deployed. Peter Siebold also told National Transportation Safety Board investigators that he was unaware his co-pilot (who died in the crash) had prematurely unlocked a lever to move the aircraft into a position used while re-entering the atmosphere. That “feathering” would’ve put tremendous strain on the airframe, likely breaking up the craft in mid-flight. The NTSB says Siebold’s description is consistent with other data from the investigation.

Read it at USA Today >>

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